

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-31 are pending, of which 1, 3, 5-16, 20, 21, and 23-25 are amended, claims 19, 22, and 26 are canceled, and 27-31 are new. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Request to Acknowledge Claim for Priority and Receipt of Priority Documents

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge Applicants request for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents.

Specification

A substitute specification is attached. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added to the original specification. However, Applicants request that the Examiner make an independent determination of the issue. A marked-up copy of the specification showing the changes made is also attached.

Claim Objections

In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, claims 1, 3, 5-10, 13, 16, and 19-26 have been amended and no longer recite the term "it." Applicants thus request that the claim objections be withdrawn

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 3, and 5-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Office Action alleges that that "Applicant has failed to clearly link and associate the 'means for/to phrase and step for' to any

corresponding structure.” Without acquiescing to the alleged lack of corresponding structure, Applicants have amended the claims to delete the “means” language. The claims are now more clearly not to be interpreted under § 112, sixth paragraph. Accordingly, the rejection is now moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, or deem that any formalities need to be addressed prior to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the phone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: /Adam Chapin/
Adam Chapin
Reg. No. 66,712

AC:khn
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4883
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100